



**The
Institution
of Engineers,
Australia**

CANBERRA DIVISION

**THE AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC
ENGINEERING PLAQUING PROGRAMME**

**NOMINATION OF THE
COTTER RIVER DAM PRECINCT
FOR AN
HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER**



**BY THE
CANBERRA DIVISION
ENGINEERING HERITAGE PANEL**

9 November 1998

Commemorative Plaque Sub-Committee
The Institution of Engineers, Australia
Engineering House
11 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600



NOMINATION FOR HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

The nomination is based on the study:

The Heritage of the Cotter River Dam Precinct

A study under the National Estate Grants Program

Presented by Keith Baker
for the University of Canberra Cultural Heritage Management Programs
consolidating work undertaken by undergraduate and postgraduate students
under the direction of Dr Brian Egloff.

This document (referred to hereafter as "the Baker Study") is loosely enclosed with this nomination.

The following work is nominated for an Historic Engineering Marker plaque.

Name of Work

Cotter River Dam Precinct.

This includes the dam, the pumping station and electric sub station, the pipeline and tunnel, sites of worker accommodation, staff housing, road and pedestrian bridges, the hydropump and its blockhouse, and recreational facilities in "the Cotter" area.

Location

Near the confluence at the Cotter and Murrumbidgee Rivers about 20km from Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory - see Figure 4 , page 4 of the Baker Study.

Owner

Government of the Australian Capital Territory/ ACT Electricity and Water Corporation (ACTEW).

Agreement to Nomination

See Attachment A.

Access to Site

The Cotter River Dam Precinct is a popular recreation area for the Canberra community with access to the various picnic and other public areas being unrestricted. Access to the pumphouse and its immediate environs is available at special times such as heritage open days, otherwise by special arrangement with the ACTEW.

Future Care and Maintenance

Future care and maintenance is assured either as a public facility or as a continuing part of ACTEW property.

Name of Sponsor

The Engineering Heritage Panel, Canberra Division, The Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Years of Construction

1913 - 1916, 1922 - 1924, 1927 - 1928, 1936, 1939 - 1940, 1943, 1949 - 1951, 1954 - 1957, 1961 - 1964, 1966, 1972 - 1973 - see Timeline, Figure 18, the Baker Study pages 36 to 38.

Period of Operation

1918 to present. Since the commissioning of the Bendora Dam in 1961 and subsequently the Corin and Googong dams, the role of the Cotter system has become one of maintenance and emergency standby. This is likely to become further downgraded in the future - see the Baker Study page 4.

Engineering Heritage Significance

Technical/Scientific Value: While not including examples of ground breaking technology of the time, the engineering aspects of the precinct are representative of the progression of water supply technology in Australia during the first half of the 20th Century - the Baker Study, page 86, paragraph 4.2.7.

Historical Value: Along with the Kingston Power Station, the Cotter Dam water supply system was the first major engineering works undertaken in the establishment and construction of Canberra as the national capital.

Social Value: In addition to its contribution to the health and comfort of the citizens of Canberra, "the Cotter area is highly valued by them as a recreational area that has been there as long as Canberra has, provided for their use and forming part of their understanding of being a Canberran. It has been the venue for organised and informal picnics, camping holidays, fishing, swimming, walks, motor biking and quiet Sunday drives over many years" (the Baker Study, page 86, paragraph 4.2.8).

Landscape Value: "The cultural landscape retains most original elements, which like planting, have developed over time. It has few modern elements other than toilet blocks, shelters and the Parks and Conservation depot. As with the hotel, they are of such scale, form and location as to be relatively unobtrusive, and continue functions that have been part of the Cotter for many years. The dominant introduced features, including the dam, pumping station, bridge, pipeline, exotic plantings, grazing land and forest are of high integrity as landscape elements and combine with the natural river valley and mountain setting to produce a very significant cultural landscape." (The Baker Study, page 90, paragraph 4.4.5).

Rarity: "Whilst most of the elements are not in themselves rare, the collection of pumping equipment spanning more than 50 years of electrical and hydraulic technology, and retaining high integrity is rare. This is enhanced by the fine pumphouse, and the presence of a restored continuously operating water powered pump which was constructed for use when Canberra's population was too small to justify running the electric pumps." (The Baker Study, Page 85, paragraph 4.2.3)

Representativeness: The architecture of the building is typical of the early structures in Canberra including the Kingston Power Station, the Provisional Parliament House and the Canberra Hotel. Technically, it contains machinery which represents the progression of pumping technology during the first half of the 20th century.

Contribution to Nation or Region: The Cotter water supply system provided an abundant supply of quality water to the national capital from its establishment through to the late 1960s by which time it had become unable to meet the demands of the vastly expanded city of Canberra.

Contribution to Engineering: Together with the Kingston Power Station, the Cotter River water supply system was the first major engineering works undertaken in the building of the national capital. It reflected the foresight of the early planners and is a symbol of the contribution of engineering to the planning and building of Canberra.

Persons Associated with Work:

C R Scrivener, Surveyor, Director of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys

E M De Burgh, prominent NSW engineer

Colonel P T Owen, first Director General of Works

Henry Corvell, first ACT dam engineer

John Smith Murdoch, Commonwealth Government Architect

Charles Weston, first Director of Parks and Gardens

Integrity: The integrity of the Cotter River Dam Precinct including the engineering elements, is very high. The complex is capable of resuming the supply of water to Canberra without major difficulty. The pump house contains examples of previously operational machinery (eg hydropump) in good condition.

Authenticity: Being purpose built and therefore unique, the Cotter River Dam Precinct is authentic in all respects.

Statement of Significance

Section 4.3 of the Baker Study is a Statement of Significance of the Cotter River dam Precinct against Australian Heritage Commission Criteria. The following statement of the engineering significance of the precinct is based on that statement.

The Cotter River Dam water supply system together with the Kingston Power Station were the first major engineering works undertaken in the establishment of the national capital in the Australian Capital Territory. It was an essential element of the infrastructure of Canberra for over fifty years and its modification and expansion reflected the progress of the growing city.

Although never the site of the introduction of ground breaking technology, the Cotter precinct provides intact examples of the technology of the times and the progression of electrical and hydraulic engineering in the water supply discipline. It provides a rare opportunity for the public to view in one compact location, all stages of a system supplying water to a developing city.

The dam is representative in the region of concrete gravity dams constructed in many parts of Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The pumping station is highly representative of electrically driven and hydropump technology over the years from the early 1900s to the 1960s. The engineering elements of the precinct are a collection of pumping equipment spanning 50 years and which retain high integrity rare in Australia.

The construction and operation of the Cotter River dam water supply system is associated with many persons who were important in the selection and development of Canberra as the national capital. The history of the construction of the facility including the Royal Commission, provides an insight into the characters of and relationships between these persons. The employment of strongly unionised labour in the construction of the complex, impacted on future working conditions in the territory.

The significance of the Cotter River Dam Precinct is therefore summarised as follows:

- for over fifty years it was a valuable supplier of water to the national capital;
- together with the Kingston Power Station, it was the first major engineering works undertaken in ACT;
- it is a rare high integrity collection of pumping equipment spanning more than 50 years of electrical and hydraulic technology; and
- its history includes many important figures involved in the establishment and development of Canberra and provides an insight into the interpersonal relationships and processes of the time.

Proposed Plaque Text

HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

COTTER RIVER DAM PRECINCT

DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE COTTER RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM COMMENCED OPERATION IN 1918 AND CEASED TO BE CANBERRA'S PRIME WATER SOURCE IN 1968. THE PUMPING STATION CONTAINS EXAMPLES OF WATER SUPPLY TECHNOLOGY SPANNING 50 YEARS, RARELY FOUND UNDER ONE ROOF. THE PRECINCT IS A SYMBOL OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF ENGINEERING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AND IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CITY'S HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE. (77 words)

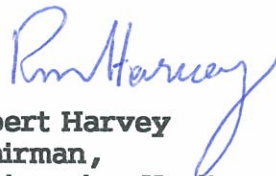
DEDICATED BY
THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA 1999

Proposed Location of the Plaque

At the entrance to the pumphouse.



Robert Breen
Nomination Coordinator,
Engineering Heritage Panel



Robert Harvey
Chairman,
Engineering Heritage Panel

Attachment: A. Owners letter of consent to nomination.

Enclosure: Document **The Heritage of the Cotter River Dam Precinct**, a study under the National Estate Grants Program prepared by Keith Baker



ACTEW
CORPORATION

ACTEW Corporation Ltd
ACN 069 381 960
ACTEW House
221-223 London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601

CORRESPONDENCE
GPO Box 366
Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone (02) 6248 311
Facsimile (02) 6248 354

File: G97/321/1

12 June 1998

Mr Rolfe Hartley
President
Canberra Division
The Institution of Engineers, Australia
PO Box E66
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Sir

In reference to your letter of 8 June 1998 regarding the nomination of the Cotter River Dam Precinct for an 'Historic Engineering Marker', ACTEW is pleased to give our agreement and support to your submission.

I have read the nomination and feel assured that you will be successful in the nomination. Should we be able to provide any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Alan S Galbraith
General Manager, Corporate Services

SUGGESTED ENTRY IN THE BOOKLET
THE HISTORIC ENGINEERING PLAQUES OF AUSTRALIA

Cotter River Dam Precinct

Location: In the Australian Capital Territory at the confluence of the Cotter and Murrumbidgee Rivers west of Canberra city. See Gregory's Canberra 2002 Street Directory, 17th Edition, Map 55, Reference B3.

owner: ACT Government.

the plaque
type: Historic Engineering Marker
location: on the left hand side of the main entrance door of the Cotter River Dam Pumping Station.

Together with the Kingston Power Station, the Cotter River Dam Precinct was the first major engineering work undertaken in the Australian Capital Territory and was a valuable supplier of water to the capital for over 50 years. It is a rare high integrity collection of pumping equipment spanning more than half a century of electrical and hydraulic technology. Its history includes many important figures involved in the establishment and development of Canberra and provides an insight into the interpersonal relationships and processes of the time.

plaque text:

Cotter River Dam Precinct

Designed by engineers for the Federal Government's Department of Home Affairs, the Cotter River Water Supply Scheme commenced operation in 1918 and ceased to be Canberra's prime water source in 1968. The pumping station contains examples of water supply technology spanning 50 years, rarely found under one roof. The precinct is a symbol of the contribution of engineering to the construction of the National Capital and is an important part of the city's heritage and cultural landscape,

From: Benita Honig
To: Peter Cockbain; Robin Black
Date: 9/12/03 12:08pm
Subject: Fwd: Cotter River Dam Precinct HEM Entry in Plaques Booklet

Dear Gentlemen:

The attached is for your information, etc.

Regards, Benita

Benita Honig
Executive Assistant
Martin Dwyer, Director Engineering Practice
& Secretariat, Engineering Heritage Australia
Engineers Australia
11 National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6270 6525/Fax: (02) 6273 2358
Email: bhonig@ieaust.org.au

The Institution's website is a comprehensive gateway to the engineering profession. Visit at:
<http://www.ieaust.org.au>

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>>> "Rob Breen" <macqmusc@cyberone.com.au> 09/12/03 11:16am >>>
Harry,

I have finally completed the ceremony report for the Cotter River Dam Precinct HEM. Attached is Attachment F to the report giving the suggested entry for the plaques booklet.

Best wishes.

Rob Breen.



**The
Institution of Engineers,
Australia**

**AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC
ENGINEERING PLAQUING PROGRAMME**

**REPORT ON
THE UNVEILING CEREMONY
FOR THE**

COTTER RIVER DAM PRECINCT

HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER PLAQUE



**Cotter River Dam Pumping Station
Sunday, 15 October 2000**

COTTER RIVER DAM PRECINCT
HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER PLAQUE
UNVEILING CEREMONY REPORT

Introduction

In 2000, the Engineering Heritage Panel of the Canberra Division of the Institution of Engineers, Australia (IEAust) made a submission under the **Australian Historic Engineering Plaquing Programme** of the Institution, nominating the **Cotter River Dam Precinct** in the Australian Capital Territory for the award of an **Historic Engineering Marker** (HEM). The nomination was based on the study:

**The Heritage of the
Cotter River Dam Precinct**

A study under the National Estate Grants Program

presented by Keith Baker
for the University of Canberra Cultural Heritage Management Programs
consolidating work undertaken by undergraduate and postgraduate students under the
direction of Dr Brian Egloff.

The award was subsequently approved by the Commemorative Plaque Sub-Committee and the date for the unveiling ceremony was set to coincide with **RiverFest 2000**, an activity of **Environmental ACT** as part of **National Water Week** (see the publicity flyer at Attachment A).

This is the report of that ceremony as required by the **Guide to The Australian Historic Engineering Plaquing Programme**, Page 21.

Planning

The planning for the ceremony was conducted in liaison with **Environmental ACT**, an element of the Act Government, and ACTEW, the ACT corporate body responsible for the Cotter River Dam Precinct.

Arrangements

A program for the ceremony was drafted and, after some refinement, printed (see Attachment B). Speakers were contacted and provided with a copy of the draft program, a guide to how long they should speak and material to assist them in compiling their addresses.

Invitations were sent to a broad range of potential attendees, see the working list at Attachment C.

ACTEW arranged the fixing of the plaque to the wall of the Cotter Pumping Station, adjacent to the main entrance door. The corporation also arranged for staff to be present on the day and to prepare the station for guided tours as part of the post ceremony activities. A lectern, public address system and chairs for the audience, were provided.

The Ceremony Day

As part of the RiverFest 2000 activities, those planning to attend the plaquing ceremony gathered at Casuarina Sands in the Murrumbidgee River Corridor for a ceremony and barbeque as part of National Water Week. Afterwards, those present made the short walk to the Cotter Pumping Station from the plaquing ceremony.

The Unveiling Ceremony

The ceremony commenced at about 3.00 pm with approximately 30 people attending. Keith Baker, Chairman of Canberra Division Engineering Heritage Panel, performed the role as Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed those present and introduced Mr Hugh Crawley, Deputy President of Canberra Division, who described the Institution's plaquing programme drawing on his knowledge and experiences in the Cotter precinct during his formative years in the ACT.

Mr Paul Perkins, Chief Executive of ACTEW, then spoke on about the history of the Cotter precinct and made reference to the nation building aspects of the precinct in a way that inspired all those present. He was followed by Mr Brendan Smith MLA, Minister for Urban Services who, after appropriate observations and comments, unveiled the Historic Engineering Marker plaque.

Closing remarks were made by Mr Baker during which he thanked all those present for attending. Light refreshments were then served in the pumping station and tours of historic contents provided by knowledgeable guides.

Media Coverage

Media coverage of the event included the release of press releases before the day and inclusion of comments on the ceremony as part of the overall RiverFest 2000 coverage.

Photographic Coverage

Photographs of the ceremony appear at Attachment D.

Post Ceremony Actions

Following the ceremony letters of thanks were dispatched - see examples at Attachment E.

The Text of HEM Plaque

The text of the Cotter River Dam Precinct Historic Engineering Marker plaque is shown on the ceremony program at Attachment B.

Suggested Entry for the booklet The Historic Engineering Plaques of Australia

This appears at Attachment F.

Ceremony a Success

The HEM plaque unveiling ceremony was a success because of:

- the participation of the Minister for Urban Services and the Chief Executive of ACTEW in association with IEAust Canberra Division officers;
- the ready availability of an "instant crowd" resulting from the linking of the ceremony with the RiverFest 2000 activities;
- the support of ACTEW and Environment ACT;
- the positive boost for the Institution and the engineering profession's image received with the public at large and in particular local politicians and community groups; and
- the good weather.

Once again the IEAust's **Historic Engineering Plaquing Programme** has, in addition to providing deserved public recognition for an historic engineering site, placed the Institution's name before the public at a particular location, "forever"!



Robert Breen
Nomination and Ceremony Coordinator

September 2003

Attachments:

- A** Publicity Flyer for RiverFest 2000.
- B** Unveiling Ceremony Program.
- C** List of People Invited to Cotter Ceremony.
- D** Ceremony photographs.
- E** Examples of Letters of Thanks.
- F** Suggested entry in the booklet **The Historic Engineering Plaques of Australia.**

RiverFest 2000

Celebrate the launch of
National Water Week
by participating in activities taking place throughout
the ACT on:

Sunday 15th October 2000

10am until 3pm

Activities include water testing, tree planting, and
fly fishing demonstrations.

Activities are planned at:

ANU

Dunlop

Tharwa Bridge, Tharwa

Casuarina Sands, Murrumbidgee River Corridor

Free transport and BBQ lunch at Casuarina Sands
from 12.30pm

For more information please call:

6207 5318 or 6207 2246

See map overleaf for details.

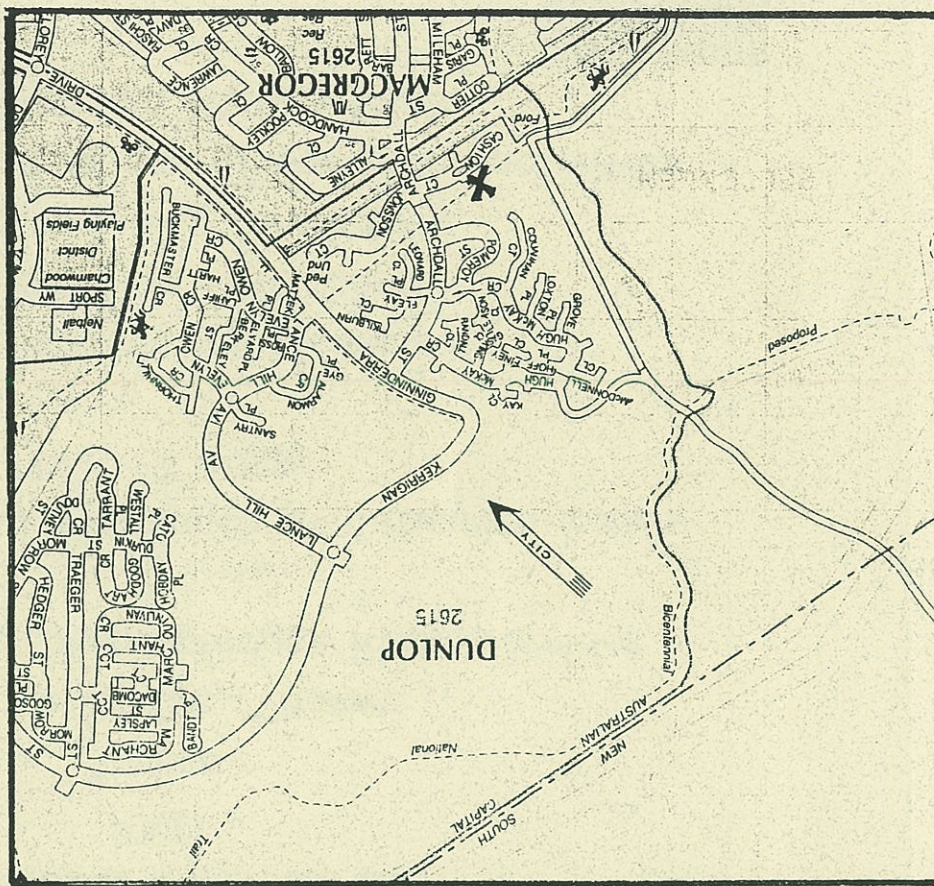
Or try to get along to one of our other activities
during National Water Week.

ENVIRONMENT ACT

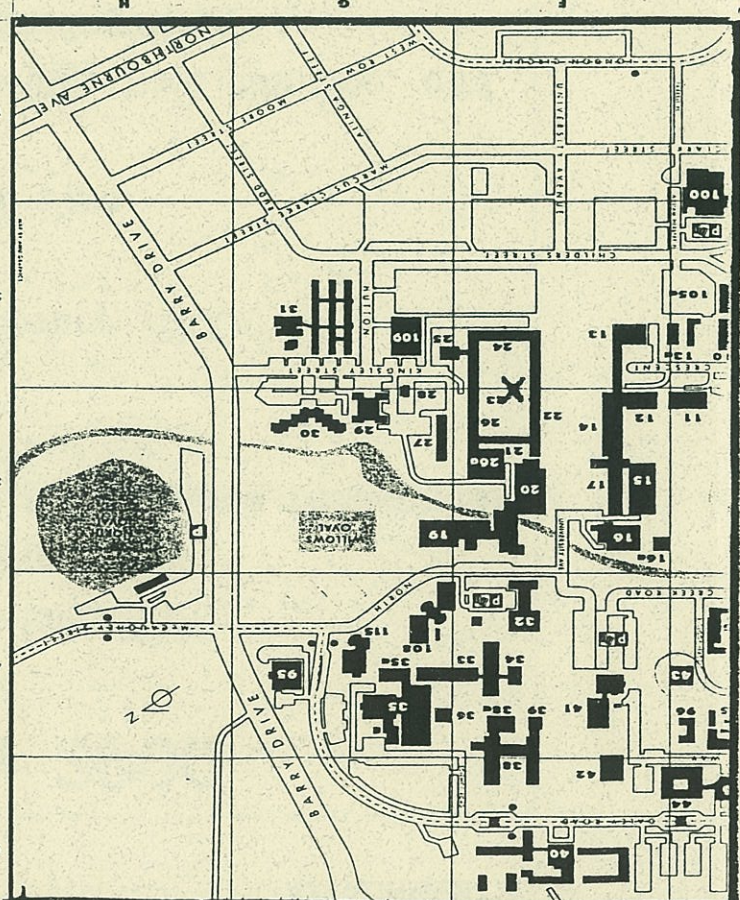
WATERWATCH
Australian Capital Territory
Communities Caring for Catchments

CASUARINA SANDS site – follow Cotter Road to the Casuarina Sands Picnic Area

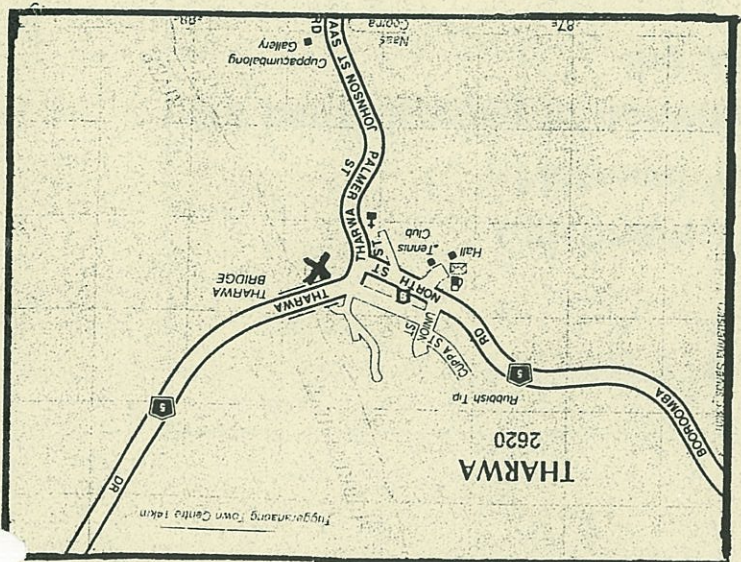
DUNLOP site – meet 10am at X



ANU site – meet at 10am at X



THARWA site – meet at 10am at X





**The
Institution of Engineers,
Australia**

Official ceremony
for the
presentation and unveiling of an

HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

award to the

COTTER RIVER DAM PRECINCT

**Cotter Pumping Station
Sunday, 15 October 2000**

**The Australian Historic Engineering
Plaquing Programme
and the
Cotter River Dam Precinct**

The Institution of Engineers, Australia established the Australian Historic Engineering Plaquing Programme in 1984 as a means of bringing public recognition to significant engineering works and the engineers who created them.

The programme recognises significant works at two levels, the National Engineering Landmark (NEL) and the Historic Engineering Marker (HEM). The NEL is the Institution's ultimate accolade reserved for works which have contributed to the development of Australia and the practice of engineering and are significant components of the National Estate. The HEM is awarded to works or sites, which are significant within a particular state, region or community.

The Institution recognises the Cotter River Dam Precinct as a significant element of the engineering heritage of the Australian Capital Territory and has awarded it an Historic Engineering Marker. The text on the plaque reads:

"DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE COTTER RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM COMMENCED OPERATION IN 1918 AND CEASED TO BE CANBERRA'S PRIME WATER SOURCE IN 1968. THE PUMPING STATION CONTAINS EXAMPLES OF WATER SUPPLY TECHNOLOGY SPANNING 50 YEARS, RARELY FOUND UNDER ONE ROOF. THE PRECINCT IS A SYMBOL OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF ENGINEERING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AND IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CITY'S HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE."

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Keith Baker

Chairman, Engineering Heritage Panel
Canberra Division
The Institution of Engineers, Australia

The Plaquing Programme

Hugh Crawley
Deputy President, Canberra Division
The Institution of Engineers, Australia

About the Cotter River Dam Precinct

Paul Perkins
Chief Executive Officer
ACTEW Corporation

**Unveiling of the
Historic Engineering Marker Plaque**

Brendan Smyth MLA
Minister for Urban Services

Closing Remarks

Keith Baker
Chairman, Engineering Heritage Panel
The Institution of Engineers, Australia

Light Refreshments Served

-----ooOoo-----

LIST OF PEOPLE INVITED TO COTTER CEREMONY

IEAust		Accept?
Martin Cole	President	No
John Bouchier	CEO	
John Neal	President, Canberra Division	No
Hugh Crawley	Deputy President, Canberra Division	Yes + 3
Ian Noble	Vice President, Canberra Division	Yes + 1
John Robinson	Treasurer, Canberra Division	No
Rolfe Hartley	Member, Canberra Division Committee	
David Barrett	ditto	
Denton Bocking	ditto	
Mike Evans	ditto	
Allan Johnson	ditto	
Glenn Keys	ditto	
Jim Lilley	ditto	
Gary Reynolds	ditto	
Harry Trueman	Chairman NCEH	No
Suzanne Mayrhofer	Administrator, NCEH	
Vesna Strika	Manager, Canberra Division	Yes
Keith Baker	Chairman, EHP	Yes
Bob Harvey	EHP	
Ross McIntyre	EHP	Yes
Byrne Kenny	EHP	
Gary Barker	EHP	
Ken Hughes	EHP	No
Lloyd Wrigley	EHP	
Alan Schiemer	EHP	
Sharok Vaziri	EHP	
Leigh Crocker	EHP	
Ken Haw	EHP	No
Susan Bell	2001 COC	
Ros Casey	2001 COC	
Mike Pearson	2001 COC	

Non IEAust people

Prof Ken Taylor	President, National Trust	
Michael Hodgkin	Executive Director, National Trust	
Colin Griffin	Heritage Officer, National Trust	
John Farquharson	Canberra & District Historical Society	
June Penny	President, Heraldry & Genealogy Society	No but
Mrs & Mr Fletcher	Deputy President "" "" ""	Yes
Bob Legge	Canberra Archaeological Society	
Pat Jeffery	Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association	
Claire Lewis	Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association	No
Judy Becker	Heritage Library	
Laurie Lawson	Manager, ACT Historic Places	
Tony Corrigan	Manager, ACT Parks & Conservation Services	

David Scott	Manager, ACT Heritage Unit	
Alan Thompson	Chief Executive, Dept of Urban Services	
Dr Colin Adrian	Executive Director, Environment ACT	Yes
Miriam Jamison	Dept of Housing	
Winifred Rosser	Chair, Heritage Council	
Geoff Butler	Deputy Chair, heritage Council	No
Dr Brian Egloff	Heritage Council	
Susan Marsden	Heritage Council	
Weekes White	Heritage Council	
Mary WillPiams	Heritage Council	
Roger Pergrum	Heritage Council	
Margaret Hendry	Heritage Council	
Louise Pearson	Heritage Council	
Alex Marsden	Australian heritage Commission	
Richard Morrison	ditto	
Juliet Ramsay	ditto	
John MacKay	ACTEW CEO	
Paul Perkins	ACTEW D/CEO	Yes
Wayne Harris	ACTEW General Manager Water	No
Wayne Galley	ACTEW General Manager Water	No
Andrew Galley	ACTEW Maintenance Manager	No
Peter Dowling	Classification Officer, National Trust of Australia	
Carol Cosgrove	National trust	
Ann Gugler		Yes + 2
Jill Waterhouse	Canberra Cultural Centre	
Matthew Higgins	Heritage Consultant	
Mrs Agnes Shea	Ngun(n)awal Elder	
Mre Hillary Crawford	ditto	
Bruce & Jean Merritt	ditto	
Peter freeman	Architect	

Updated 10 October 2000

CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHS



Keith Baker, Chairman, Canberra Division Engineering Heritage Panel and Master of Ceremonies, welcomes those present and introduces ...



**Hugh Crawley, Deputy Chairman,
Canberra Division, who speaks
on the Plaquing Program.**

**ACTEW Chief Executive Paul Perkins
Describes the history of the Cotter
Precinct and inspires the audience
with his comments on national
building.**





**Minister for Urban Services
Brendan Smith, speaks on
engineering heritage and the
environment and ...**



unveils the Historic Engineering Marker plaque.



Ceremony participants Keith Baker, Brendan Smith, Hugh Crawley and Paul Perkins pictured with the HEM plaque.



**The
Institution
of Engineers,
Australia**

Canberra Division
Engineering Heritage Panel

16 November 2000

Hugh Crawley
Deputy President

Dear Hugh,

**Cotter River Dam Precinct
Historic Engineering Marker Award**

Thank you for participating in the ceremony to unveil the plaque recording the award of an Historic Engineering Marker to the Cotter River Dam Precinct, on Sunday 15 October.

Your address describing the plaquing programme was an essential part of the proceedings and your anecdotes about your early life in the ACT helped make what can be a dry subject into one of interest and humour.

There appears to be potential - subject to ACTEW agreement - for an arrangement whereby the precinct rangers might include the pumping station in their guided tours program. This would be a fitting outcome to a successful heritage activity.

Again, thank you for being with us at the ceremony and making a much appreciated contribution to it.

Yours sincerely,

**Robert Breen
Secretary**



**The
Institution
of Engineers,
Australia**
Canberra Division
Engineering Heritage Panel

Paul Perkins
Chief Executive Office
ACTEW Corporation
GPO Box 366
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Paul,

**Cotter River Dam Precinct
Historic Engineering Marker Award**

Thank you for participating in the ceremony to unveil the plaque recording the award of an Historic Engineering Marker to the Cotter River Dam Precinct, on Sunday 15 October.

The ceremony was a great success and those I spoke to mentioned how impressed they were with your "nation building" address. Thank you for that, we need someone to come along every now and then to remind us of the inspiring things of life.

Would you please pass on to Andrew Galley and his staff our sincere thanks for the ready assistance they gave in setting up the ceremony and being there on the day. Without their input the ceremony would not have been the success it was.

There appears to be potential - subject to ACTEW agreement - for an arrangement whereby the precinct rangers might include the pumping station in their guided tours program. This would be a fitting outcome to a successful heritage activity.

Again, thank you for taking time out from your busy schedule to participate in the ceremony. It was very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Breen
Secretary
16 November 2000

SUGGESTED ENTRY IN THE BOOKLET
THE HISTORIC ENGINEERING PLAQUES OF AUSTRALIA

Cotter River Dam Precinct

Location: In the Australian Capital Territory at the confluence of the Cotter and Murrumbidgee Rivers west of Canberra city. See Gregory's Canberra 2002 Street Directory, 17th Edition, Map 55, Reference B3.

owner: ACT Government.

the plaque

type: Historic Engineering Marker

location: on the left hand side of the main entrance door of the Cotter River Dam Pumping Station.

Together with the Kingston Power Station, the Cotter River Dam Precinct was the first major engineering work undertaken in the Australian Capital Territory and was a valuable supplier of water to the capital for over 50 years. It is a rare high integrity collection of pumping equipment spanning more than half a century of electrical and hydraulic technology. Its history includes many important figures involved in the establishment and development of Canberra and provides an insight into the interpersonal relationships and processes of the time.

plaque text:

Cotter River Dam Precinct

Designed by engineers for the Federal Government's Department of Home Affairs, the Cotter River Water Supply Scheme commenced operation in 1918 and ceased to be Canberra's prime water source in 1968. The pumping station contains examples of water supply technology spanning 50 years, rarely found under one roof. The precinct is a symbol of the contribution of engineering to the construction of the National Capital and is an important part of the city's heritage and cultural landscape,